

IN THE ABSTRACT:

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Page 20, line 3, after "virus" insert --, which has been designated Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 (HIV-1)--.

REMARKS

Formal examination of this application is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct minor grammatical errors and to more clearly and particularly point out applicants' invention. Additionally, claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 11-34 have been added to the application.

Claims 11-18 are directed to methods and kits for detecting the presence or absence of nucleic acid of HIV-1 in a biological sample employing nucleic acid probes of HIV-1. Support for these claims can be found in the specification at, for example, page 12, line 34 through page 13, line 5; and page 14, lines 17-32.

Claims 19-26 are directed to methods and kits for detecting the presence or absence of antibodies which bind to antigens of HIV-1. Support for these claims can be found in the specification at, for example, page 12, line 34 through page 13, line 5; and page 15, lines 18-30.

Finally, claims 27-34 are directed to methods and kits for detecting the presence or absence of antigens which bind to antibodies of HIV-1. Support for these claims can be found in the specification at, for example, page 12, line 34 through page

13, line 5; page 15, line 18 through page 16, line 9. As the foregoing amendments do not introduce any new matter, it is respectfully requested that they be entered by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request formal examination of this application and allowance of the pending claims at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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